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Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 035757
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TO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 035757

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TECH, MNUC, PARM

SUBJECT: UNOFFICIAL US/BRAZILIAN CONTACTS

REF: STATE 25133

1. FOLLOWING UP DISCUSSIONS REPORTED REFTEL AND SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSION WITH FOREIGN MINISTER SILVEIRA, FORMER AMBASSADOR VASCO LEITAO DA CUNHA MET WITH LINCOLN GORDON, JOHN PALFREY, SEYMOUR RUBIN AND (BRIEFLY) AVERELL HARRIMAN ON FEBRUARY 14. HE SUGGESTED FOLLOWING APPROACH IN FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH GOB:

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-- US SHOULD ADDRESS NUCLEAR ISSUES IN GLOBAL CONTEXT. THERE MIGHT BE SOME PROGRESS IF US ENLISTED BRAZILIAN SUPPORT IN COMBATTING GLOBAL PROLIFERATION PROBLEM INSTEAD OF EMPHASIZING OBJECTIONS TO GERMAN NUCLEAR DEAL. TREATY OF TLATELOLCO WOULD BE ANOTHER USEFUL BASIS FOR DISCUSSIONS, GIVEN GOB SUPPORT OF TREATY.

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-- US SHOULD EMPHASIZE NON-DISCRIMINATORY CHARACTER OF ITS PROPOSALS, ELABORATING ON POSSIBILITY OF NUCLEAR FUEL ASSURANCES. GOB MIGHT EVEN TAKE INITIATIVE IN PROPOSING ASSURED FUEL SUPPLY, KNOWING US WOULD ACCEPT PROPOSAL.

-- APOLOGIES ABOUT PAST US DISCRIMINATORY APPROACH TO BRAZIL WOULD HELP ASSUAGE GOB RANCOR OVER US/FRG CONSULTATIONS.

2. LEITAO DA CUNHA INDICATED GOB CONTINUED TO MAINTAIN MORE FLEXIBILITY THAN IT COULD AFFORD TO DISPLAY IN PUBLIC STATEMENTS. IN PARTICULAR, HE SUGGESTED THAT IF ANYTHING LIKE A NUCLEAR FUEL BANK UNDER IAEA AUSPICES COULD BE PROPOSED, IT MIGHT HAVE A "TREMENDOUS IMPACT" IN GOB ATTITUDES.

3. WE UNDERSTAND LEITAO DA CUNHA RETURNS TO BRAZIL ON FEBRUARY 16. EMBASSY SHOULD OF COURSE BE ALERT TO ANY OTHER GOB SIGNALS PRIOR TO DEPUTY SECRETARY'S MARCH 1 VISIT, AND FURTHER THOUGHTS ON SUGGESTIONS PARAS 1 AND 2 WOULD BE MOST WELCOME.
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Message Attributes

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